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Official voice of the Air Force Research Laboratory

Directed Energy personnel receive medals, awards

by Rich Garcia, Directed Energy Directorate

KIRTLAND AFB, N.M. – Three medals were presented and 29 other military and civilians employees were honored recently at a ceremony in the Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate.

An Air Force Commendation Medal was awarded to 1st Lt. Patrick R. Kelly and Air Force Achievement Medals were presented to Master Sgts. Ronnie E. Garner and Brian L. Salado, 4th and 1st oak leaf clusters respectively.

Kelly received the medal, in part, for his work with aircraft engines at Kelly AFB, Texas, where he was praised for having saved the Air Force \$50,000 and avoided a 10-day delay on one project alone. Garner and Salado earned their medals for contributions to the Research Laboratory's security program. Because of their efforts, the organization received the highest individual ratings ever for a particular type of inspection.

Aside from the medal presentations, Technical Sgt. Michael A. Olson was presented a plaque in recognition of having been selected as the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for 1999. A plaque was also presented to the Solid-State Laser Products Group (Capt. Ken Dinndorf, Dr. Harold Miller and 2nd Lt. Russell Stutz) for having won the Giller Award. Named after retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Edward Giller, the award recognizes technical contributions to the organization.

Dr. Laverne Schlie was presented the Spark Award, awarded for new, creative or innovative research.

Two students, Ester Archuleta and Eva Hendren, were recognized with plaques for having been selected as the directorate's outstanding student employees of the year.

Civilian quarterly awards were also presented: to Dr. Michael Haworth as the Senior Scientist and Engineer, Dr. Ron Kaspi and Victor Stone sharing the Scientist and Engineer Award, Scott Arko for Program Management, Lucille Nance for Clerical, and Kerry Sandstrom for Leadership. The Technical Teamwork Award was presented to the Airborne Laser Star Analysis Team, which consisted of Capt. Scott Nowlin, 2nd Lt. Dawn Grover, and Drs. Russell Butts, Lawrence Weaver, Wilbur Brown and Jonathan Bloch.

Also recognized were the members of the Seek Smoke Deployment Team for their work in Asia, with a system for detecting and identifying hazardous agents entering an air base. Those members were Lt. Col. Christopher Washer, Maj. William Cooley, Capts Christopher Filipietz and Amanda Kato, 2nd Lt. Patrick Dodd, Steve Alejandro, T.J. Morton, Steve Long and Tim Pressnall. @